

California **GARDEN**

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1985

Seventy-five Cents

Volume 76 No. 6

ISSN 0008-1116



HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

* San Diego Floral Association Event

- November 2 & 3 **San Diego Tropical Fish 15th Annual Aquarium Show**
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park
Sat: 12-6 p.m. Sun: 9-4 p.m. Free
- November 6 & 13* **Floral Arranging Holiday Workshops**
Casa del Prado, Room 101 or 102, Balboa Park
Wed: 9:30-2:30 p.m. Information: 298-5182
- November 7, 14, 21* **Thursday Workshop with Colleen Winchell**
Free Floral Crafts Instruction - Open to the public
Casa del Prado, San Diego Floral Association Library, Room 105,
Balboa Park Thurs: 10-3 p.m. Information: 479-6433
- November 9 **Chula Vista Garden Club's Christmas Bazaar**
Norman Park Center, 270 F St., 10-3 p.m. Boutique and flower demo.
- November 14 **Southern California Nursery Show**
Al Bahr Shrine Temple, Hwy 163 & Clairemont Blvd, San Diego
8-4 p.m. Information: Cuyamaca College Nursery Dept.
- November 16* **Bus Tour to J. Paul Getty Museum, Santa Monica \$19.25**
Pickup points - Balboa Park, La Jolla, Carlsbad.
Prepaid reservations requested. Phone: 232-2661
- November 23 & 24 **Tenth Annual Sumi-e Painting & Ikebana Arrangement Show**
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park
Sat & Sun: 11-4 p.m. Free
- November 23 & 24 **Ichijo Christmas Boutique**
Casa del Prado, Sculpture Court, Balboa Park
Sat: 10-4 p.m. Sun 11-4 p.m.
- December 1 to 22 **Victorian Christmas Fullerton Arboretum - Heritage House**
Tour & Exhibit of the Victorian Cottage, California
State University, Fullerton, Yorba Linda Blvd. at
Associated Road, Fullerton, CA Donation: Adults \$1. Children \$.50
- December 3 **La Jolla Garden Club presents a Holiday Tea**
La Jolla Woman's Club, 715 Silverado, La Jolla
1-3 p.m. Donation: \$2.50, tax deductible
- December 6, 7 **Balboa Park's 8th Annual "Christmas on the Prado"**
Sponsored by the Cultural Institutions of Balboa Park
Fri & Sat: 5-9 p.m.
- December 6, 7, 8* **San Diego Floral Association's Annual Christmas Show**
Theme - Christmas All Through the House
Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park. Free
Fri: 5-9 p.m. Sat: 12-9 p.m. Sun: 12-4 p.m.
- December 8 **"Christmas in Flowerland" Plant Sale and Bazaar**
Quail Botanical Garden Foundation
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA
Sun: 10-4 p.m. Free
- January 9 **Bus tour to Camp Pendleton**, lunch in mess hall, tour of old ranch house, crash
crew demonstration and military dog demonstration \$18.50 includes lunch.
Note: This tour was originally planned for Nov. 13, but had to be rescheduled
to this date. Pickup points Balboa Park, La Jolla, Carlsbad. Prepaid reser-
vations requested. Phone 232-2661.
- January 27* **Edie Pate From Fresno, CA**, a unique designer, will use fascinating woods
and innovative containers to demonstrate floral arrangements.
11:30 a.m., luncheon. House of Hospitality, Balboa Park.
1 p.m. program by Edie Pate. Call 232-5762 for further information and
reservations.

PLAN AHEAD NOW - FLORAL TRIP TO LOMPOC FLOWER FESTIVAL - JUNE 27, 28 29, 1986 * - PHONE 232 2661

Deadline date for all Horticultural Events to be listed in Jan/Feb 1986 issue is 1 December 1985.
Submit to California Garden, San Diego Floral Association, Inc. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San
Diego 92101-1619.



Published by
San Diego Floral Association
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San Diego, CA 92101

Manuscripts are invited. Deadline is 90-days prior to publication date. All manuscripts and illustrations submitted will be handled carefully but we cannot assume responsibility for their safety. All submissions must be double spaced and accompanied by return postage, if you expect them to be returned to you. Hortus Third is the authority for all botanical names used in this magazine. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the San Diego Floral Association.

Address all editorial communications to:
California Garden, Casa del Prado,
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101.

Postmaster. Send Form 3579 to:
California Garden, Casa Del Prado
San Diego, CA 92101

California GARDEN

SINCE 1909

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116

San Diego Floral Association &
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Monday through Friday
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(619) 232-5762

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With reluctance, we must now raise subscription costs for CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine effective for all renewals or new subscriptions received on or after 1 January 1986.

1 year subscription — 1985 cost \$4.00, 1986 cost \$5.00

2 year subscription — 1985 cost \$7.50, 1986 cost \$9.00

Single copy — 1985 cost \$.75, 1986 cost \$1.00

Foreign countries add \$1.00 extra for postage

There will be no change in membership dues.

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To remind you that your subscription is due to expire soon, a stamp 'SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRES NEXT ISSUE' will be stamped on or near your address label on the issue prior to expiration date. On the following issue, a stamp 'SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED THIS ISSUE' means you are automatically dropped from the mailing list unless a renewal is initiated within that month. Make your renewals early to avoid missing an issue.

Classified ads will now be accepted.

1A. CALIFORNIA GARDEN Magazine 1B. 084020 2. Sep 30, 1985 3. Bi-monthly 3A. Six 3B. \$4.00 4. San Diego Floral Association, Inc., Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, San Diego County, CA 92101-1619. 5. (Same as 4) 6. San Diego Floral Association, Inc. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619 Elizabeth Glover, 5760 Alta Vista Ave., San Diego, CA 92114 7. San Diego Floral Association, Inc. (Corp), Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101-1619 8. None 9. Has not changed 10A. 3000 3000 10B1 151 126 10B2. 2565 2430 10C. 2716 2556 10D. 116 93 10E. 2832 2649 10F1 168 351 10F2. 0 10G. 3000 3000

©CALIFORNIA GARDEN (ISSN) 0008-1116 (USPS 084-020), a non-profit publication, is published bi-monthly for \$4.00 per year, or \$7.50 for two years, by San Diego Floral Association, Inc., Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA 92101, USA. Single copy is \$.75. For foreign countries add \$1.00 for extra postage. Entered as second-class matter, December 8, 1910 at the Post Office in San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second class postage paid at San Diego.

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(continued page 189)



Begonia 'Christmas Candy'

Photo by Mabel Corwin

A HOLIDAY TREAT OF 'B. Christmas Candy'

(Reprinted from The Begonian, Nov./Dec. 1982 with permission from the American Begonia Society).

by Thelma O'Reilly

Bright, cheerful **Begonia** 'Christmas Candy' is a special holiday treat that will appeal to all who enjoy growing colorful, everblooming plants. It is another exciting cultivar to add to Mabel Corwin's growing list of new begonia introductions.

Mabel says, "When I could not get **B. U014** to cross with other kinds of begonias, I tried it on my favorite semperflorens in the Glamour series, **B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'**, because of the similarities in bloom habit and growth pattern.

The American Begonia Society maintains a numbered list of unidentified Begonia species. The numbers (three digits or more) are prefaced by the capital letter "U". As the Begonia are either identified by botanical research or given names as new species, the use of the U-number is dropped.

B. U014 is the ABS identification number for

the brilliant, deep orange-red, nearly everblooming species imported from Argentina several years ago by Tom Mentelos and Fred Fuchs.

Mabel's successful cross was made in 1980. Seed was planted the following winter; germination was excellent. Strong, sturdy seedlings grew rapidly, starting to bloom when quite young. Mabel recalls, "When I saw bright, red-orange buds I really began to take notice."

B. 'Christmas Candy' inherits its leaf shape, bloom color and clustering habit from **B. U014**. Its strength, sturdiness, and leaf size are credited to **B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'**. Mabel says, "It is like an improved **B. U104**."

Every hybridizer dreams of creating a plant that has a distinct inflorescence and Mabel accomplished this with **B. 'Christmas Candy'**. Combining

the brilliant orange-red of **B. U014** and pink of **B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'** resulted in a clear, vivid red. To retain this color the plant must be grown under maximum light conditions. The color is less intense under shaded conditions.

The entire inflorescence is Christmas red with the exception of the snow white ovaries inherited from **B. U014**. Measuring two inches across, the female flowers with five tepals and male flowers with two tepals have three-inch peduncles and one-inch pedicels. Like **B. U014**, the female flowers are adorned with three red bracteoles that nearly cover the white ovary.

Glabrous, succulent, deep green leaves measuring four to five inches by two-and-a-half to three inches, are finely red-edged with a small red dot at the leaf-stem connection. Brownish-green, channeled, one-to-two-inch petioles are flushed red. Green bracts quickly dry and are persistent.

B. 'Christmas Candy' is a low, spreading plant with 12- to 14-inch, sturdy, semi-erect stems that become brownish with a woody texture like **B. U014**. It derives its sturdiness, hardness, and ease of culture from **B. 'Glamour Rose Picotee'**.

Mabel did not plan to release **B. 'Christmas Candy'** — just grow it and enjoy it. But visitors arriving after the 1981 convention were so anxious to have it that she happily shared some plants.

When Kit Jeans spied this colorful begonia she walked over to it, studied it for a moment, turned to Mabel and said, "Christmas Candy" — a perfect name in Mabel's opinion.

It is a sterile plant. Wanting to be sure the same cross would give the same results again, Mabel remade it in late 1981. She raised many more seedlings which developed into the same plant.

Mable comments, "**B. 'Christmas Candy'** blooms out along the stems and breaks at the base with new side shoots that start blooming when young, making a full blooming plant without pinching. I think this is its best feature."

"It is so easy to grow, a wonderful begonia for beginners. It doesn't need a greenhouse — just good strong light to bring out bright color of flowers. It enjoys a good potting mix and regular fertilizing. It drinks a lot of water but tolerates dryness better than most begonias. Just give it the same culture as *semperflorens* begonias. It is the most 'carefree' begonia in my collection."

With all of these qualifications, this author predicts that **B. 'Glamour Christmas Candy'** will become one of the most widely grown and enjoyed begonia introductions in recent years.

Author Thelma O'Reilly is presently the chairman of the U-number project of the ABS Nomenclature Committee. She is from La Mesa, California.

Mable Corwin of Vista, California is an extraordinary Begonia grower, who is particularly adept at handling the very rare and unusual species and at growing from seeds.



By Carol Greentree

November 1910

"THAT BOTANICAL GARDEN"

by Alfred Robinson

Seeing that a brief article of mine, published in the UNION, seems to have caused quite a little interest in a botanical garden, I take the readers of *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* a little more into my confidence. I have suggested that such a botanical garden be a feature of the proposed 1915 exposition, . . . but I would grieve to find its construction dependent upon the exposition. No other motive should be necessary than just to have it for San Diego. I advocate this garden, not as an adjunct to or a feature in something else, but free and unfettered . . . for the good of the community.

It is my settled conviction that San Diego needs a botanical garden and should have it in whatever form it may materialize.



50 YEARS AGO

By Carol Greentree

November/December 1935

"EXPOSITION CACTUS GARDEN"

by K.O. Sessions



The Cactus Garden in the Exposition has received a generous collection of named plants from the Cactus Exchange Club of Southern California, and the Agave and Aloe Garden in Balboa Park has been given a fine lot of hybrid aloes by Mr. William Hetrick, Superintendent of the Huntington Botanic Gardens. Mr. Hetrick raised these hybrid aloes and they will be interesting for their foliage variations as well as their flowers.

The aloe will certainly become a very popular plant for this city as the summer bloomers are increasing in the collection and will become better known. They are sensitive to cold and Balboa Park is an excellent location to establish this South African plant . . . the flowers last well and could be shipped to the east, as they last remarkably well when cut. They are generally in reds, with orange tints, but a few are decidedly yellow in different shades.



These nuts of Araucaria bidwillii will germinate readily.

by Mel Hunter

The beautiful Polynesian kakui nut tree which graces our living room was grown from a seed I collected while vacationing in Honolulu. On cold winter evenings its large, grey-green, maplelike leaves are a living memory of sunny Hawaii.

Raising exotic trees from seed can be an economical and satisfying form of gardening. Many unusual plants can only be obtained by propagating from seed. It is very frustrating to read about a desirable plant and then be unable to find it at a local nursery. Most landscape nurseries buy their stock from a handful of regional plant wholesalers who produce only those plants which are in constant demand and are easily grown in quantity. For the gardener who is interested in adding uncommon plants to his landscape, seed collecting is a natural answer.

Some of the rarest plants in the world can be found in urban areas growing as street trees, or used in landscapes. Seeking out, identifying, and propagating these plants is an exciting and rewarding challenge. By collecting seeds in urban areas you can avoid the expense, and possible danger, of seeking them out in habitat. You can also avoid the bureaucratic labyrinth required to secure the necessary collecting and export permits.

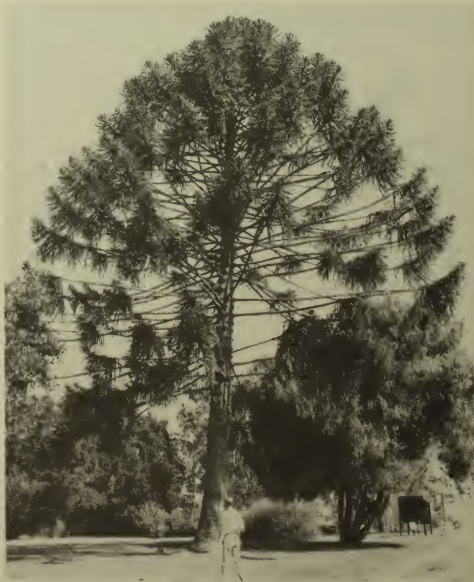
My collecting begins by researching garden magazines and books to find exotic trees and plants which might be adaptable to my climate. These resources are also helpful in providing ideas for incorporating the new plants into my existing landscape. City maps noting parks, college campuses, arboretums, and botanical reserves are valuable tools for finding collecting areas. These areas are excellent sources for seeds and often the plants are identified by name. My collecting trips have included visits to Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, California; and Honolulu, Hawaii. Guide books are often available noting the unusual trees and plants of the area. Santa Barbara, for instance, has a particularly rich heritage of rare, subtropical plants. The local horticultural society also publishes a book, *Santa Barbara's Trees*, which furnishes visitors and seed

Seed Collecting:

AN URBAN ADVENTURE FOR GARDENERS

collectors with a descriptive guide to numerous unusual street and park trees.

Collecting should be done in the late summer and fall when seeds are abundant and there are fewer chores for the gardener to do. I have an unsophisticated collecting kit which is easily carried in a light-weight day pack. It includes: reclosable plastic bags for seeds, a waterproof pen for labeling, a roll of adhesive tape to use as labels on the bags, and a botanical guide to the area I am collecting in. Identification and labeling must be done at the time of collecting. I have several beautiful plants which are unidentified because I was sure I could remember their names and did not.



Searching for Araucaria bidwillii nuts at San Luis Obispo.

As soon as you return home from collecting, remove the seeds from the pods or fruit, wash and allow them to dry on a paper towel. The dried seeds need to be dusted with an all-purpose fungicide to discourage rot.

Bottom heat provides the best environment for seed germination. A number of excellent, thermostatically controlled propagation boxes are available for purchase. I use a less expensive method which has been successful for me. I place the seeds in damp potting soil, inside a reclosable plastic bag, on top of my hot water heater. (I checked with the gas company who assured me it was safe). The water heater provides a constant source of bottom heat while the sealed plastic bags provide the humid medium necessary for germination. Whether using a commercial propagator or a hot water heater, check the bags regularly for signs of life. Some seeds, such as erythrin, brachychiton, albizia, and others can begin to germinate within a week. Other varieties, including many palms, may take several months, to a year, to sprout. Once the seeds have germinated, the individual seedlings should be planted in pots and allowed to grow large enough to be transplanted into the garden. Plants too tender to go outside can be raised as houseplants. I have tropical palms and gingers, grown from Hawaiian seeds, which are now beautiful additions inside my home. Any extra plants you grow can be given to friends or bartered to local nurseries.



Flowers and seed pods of *Lagunaria patersonii*, the "Cow Itch Tree".

Seed collecting can lead to interesting detective work. On one trip to Honolulu, I stopped to collect some unusual seed pods growing on the campus of a small school near Diamond Head crater. Since the large woody pods were unique looking, I felt I would have no difficulty identifying the tree. I showed the pods to several locals, but they had no idea as to the name of the tree. After I arrived home in California, I spent several pleasant evenings reading tropical plant texts but was still unable to identify the, now germinated, seeds. Finally I telephoned Honolulu's directory assistance and asked for the name of any school near the area I collected the seeds. They told me it was the Sacred Hearts Academy. I wrote a letter explaining my problem. Several days later I received a reply from Sister Jane Francis, identifying my tree.

Always ask permission before gathering seeds. Some arboreturns have rules against seed collecting

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and private property owners have the right to say no. For instance, the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, does not allow seed collecting, while Foster Garden in Honolulu does.

Be sure to check regulations before transporting seeds across state borders. It may be necessary for the seeds to pass an agricultural inspection before they are allowed into your state. These checks are required because certain fruits and berries harbor insects and diseases which could damage plants in other areas. A true plant-person would never want to be responsible for an outbreak of fruit flies or similar pest. Local agricultural offices can answer questions on specific regulations, and if necessary, inspect your collected seeds.

Seed collecting can be a novel and fun method of rounding out a vacation. It also provides you with the opportunity of filling your garden with unusual plants, at minimal cost. It is very satisfying to sit in the shade of a tree you have grown from seed. All that is required is patience, a love of gardening, and a spirit of adventure.

The following is a partial list of trees I have grown from seeds collected in California and Hawaii.

Delonix regia (Royal Poinciana); **Sterculia foetida** (Indian Almond); **Chorisia speciosa** (Floss-silk Tree); **Enterolobium cyclocarpum** (Elephant's-Ear Tree); **Sabal mauritiiiformis** (Savannah Palm); **Annona cherimola** (Cherimoya); **Castanospermum australe** (Moreton Bay Chestnut); **Paidium guajava** (Guava); **Cinnamomum zeylanicum** (Cinnamon Tree); **Erythea armata** (Blue Hesper Palm); **Erythrina crista-galli** (Coral Tree); **Aleurites moluccana** (Kakui Nut); **Copernicia cerifera** (Wax Palm); **Araucaria bidwillii** (Bunya-Bunya); **Bombax malabaricum** (Red-silk Cotton Tree); **Calodendrum capense** (Cape Chestnut); **Spathodea campanulata** (African Tulip Tree); **Ptychosperma Macarthurii** (MacArthur Palm); **Butia capitata** (Jelly Palm); **Brachychiton** sps. (Bottle Trees); **Prichardia** sp. (Loulou Palm); **Jubaea chilensis** (Chilean Wine Palm); **Bauhinia variegata** (Purple Orchid Tree); and **Trithrinax Acanthocoma** (Palm).

Mel Hunter, from Atascadero, California, has written several articles for other magazines, but this is his first for California Garden.

Melon Fly Found

The San Diego County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures has just received confirmation from the California Department of Food and Agriculture of the finding of an adult male melon fly in the Mira Mesa area of San Diego. The melon fly was found during the routine inspection of a trap placed in a peach tree.

This is the first time that a melon fly has been found in San Diego County and only the third time since 1956 that a melon fly has been found in California.

The melon fly is well distributed over most of India, throughout most of southeastern Asia, the Mariana Islands and the Hawaiian Islands. It was introduced into the Hawaiian Islands from Japan about 1895 and by 1897, when it was first observed, it was already a serious pest. More than 125 species of plants, including cucurbita, tomatoes and many other vegetables have been recorded as hosts of the melon fly. Preferred hosts include cantaloupe, watermelon, pumpkin, squash, gourd, cucumber, tomato, string bean and cowpea. The melon fly is slightly larger than a house fly; reddish-yellow, brown spots along veins of otherwise-clear wings.

Increased trapping in the Mira Mesa area is planned as well as some fruit cutting of host material. No eradication effort is planned at this time.

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Soil-Less Indoor Gardening:

DIRECTLY IN WATER

by Tineke Wilders

An exciting and easy method of growing plants is the soil-less way — in plain water. There are people who have an allergic reaction to soil particles and for them growing plants in water is a great solution. I am not allergic to soil — fortunately — but I do grow some of my plants in water. Why, you ask? Well, first of all, it requires less maintenance. You never have to worry about overwatering your plants. And they can be left unattended for a week, even a few weeks. Sounds easy? Well, it is.

Then why grow plants in soil in the first place? Well, soil has the function of providing nutrients to a plant and anchoring the roots. So, plants grown in water depend on us as far as food is concerned. More about that later.

Which plants will adapt to water culture (also sometimes referred to as hydro-culture or hydroponics)? Just to mention a few: philodendrons, wandering jews (*Tradescantia*), coleus, dracena, Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema*) and the Piggyback plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*), as well as schlefflera, anthurium, bromeliads and even some cactus and succulents.

Sunny window sill

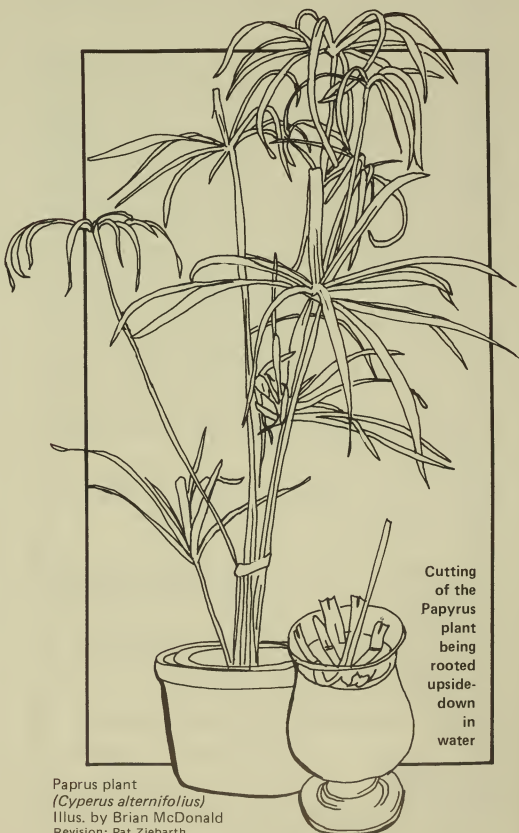
Most of these plants can be started in water as cuttings or clippings. Take healthy shoots, about 10 centimetres in length, strip off the lower leaves and place them in a clean jar with water. A sunny windowsill is an ideal spot for cuttings in water, but even a windowless bathroom works well. You can place a variety of cuttings in water in just about any place. As a matter of fact, each room in my house has at least one jam jar crammed with plant cuttings. Even though they don't grow at a super fast speed, they provide attractive greenery.

One other plant that is very much at home in water and also one of my favorites, is the Egyptian Paperplant, the *Cyperus* also known as Papyrus plant. This is actually an aquatic plant and loves to grow in soggy — wet soil. But they also do well in plain water — I have been growing a few of them in a small goldfish bowl with the roots supported by red clay pebbles. Cuttings of this grassy plant (cats love to chew the foliage!) can be taken in an unusual way: Simply snip off one of the plumed tops, turn it upside down and place it in a jar with water. Within a few weeks roots will appear and the cutting can then either be transplanted into a wet soil mix or grown in water with nutrients.

The Papyrus loves a high humidity, so use your mist bottle generously to raise the humidity around the plant. This will also keep the annoying spider-mites at a safe distance: they love this plant.

You can also transfer mature plants from soil to water culture, but you have to allow some time for the plant to adjust. This could take several weeks.

Plants in soil grow a completely different type of roots than they do in water, since they



have to apply different techniques to draw in their nutrients. When you convert a plant from soil to water, it will have to produce a new set of roots. So be kind and patient with the plant.

Let's say you want to move a Dragon Tree (*Dracaena marginata*) from soil into water. First of all, take the plant out of its pot and wash off all the soil under a running tap (use lukewarm water, it is friendlier on the plant). When there are no soil particles left, place it in a jar big enough for the roots to fit. Fill up with water and place the container in a bright spot, out of the sun. Over the next couple of weeks, the plant will send out new roots. As soon as the plant has established itself, you can start adding a water-soluble fertilizer with a low formula, such as 10-10-10. Use one-eighth of the strength recommended by the manufacturer and add that to the water once a month: half water, half diluted fertilizer. It is a good practice to renew the water at the same time.

Containers: The choice of containers for water-gardening is limitless: plastic, glass, ceramic, porcelain, vases, jugs, jars, even bottles, as long as they are waterproof.

Some plants, if they are tall, may need a "hold-fast", so they won't tip over. You can anchor the roots with glass marbles, coarse gravel (check your pet store for aquarium gravel), sand or broken pieces of clay flowerpots.

Together or Alone? Here you can use your own imagination or preference. You can either grow a single plant variety in a water-filled container, or, as I do, group several compatible varieties together to create a pleasant arrangement, by choosing plants with different leaf sizes, shapes and colors.

Keep water clean: To keep the water clean and clear and discourage algae, you can add a handful of charcoal chips to the water. Freshen the water before it turns slimy, as this could cause the roots to rot.

When to add water? You will notice that in warm and sunny weather the water evaporates faster than on cooler, sunless days. So just keep the water level constant.

If you have to convince some of your friends that "yes, you can grow plants," this may be an ideal way to get them started. Why not fill a jar with some of your cuttings, wrap the jar in colorful paper and use it as a housewarming gift?

Water gardening is quite a challenge and a peaceful way of indoor gardening. Try it first with a few cuttings and see if it suits your lifestyle. You see, the pleasure of plants is that they can be grown and enjoyed in just about any way you like.

Tineke Wilders, from El Cajon, California, a native from Holland, is a TV/radio/media personality, specializing in tropical and sub-tropical plants. She currently writes for the San Diego Union newspaper.



By Carol Greentree

Winter 1960

"TWO STEPS NEARER A GARDEN CENTER"

by Jane Minshall

Those who attended the Fall Flower Show witnessed the debut of the Floral Association's handsome new patio. In actual fact, the patio area was only two steps along the way toward total development.

The first step was taken several years ago when the area to the east of the building was enclosed with a grapestake fence. Shortly thereafter, a large wooden deck was built to create a comfortable transition from floor to ground level through the building's double doors. A portion of the central area was paved with concrete blocks at that time.

The second step began last spring with the commissioning of landscape architect, Roy H. Siefert, to develop a master plan for the patio area. The goal was to create a permanent display garden, as a background for flower shows, which incorporated the existing construction. Siefert worked with a committee of Floral Association members, including Mrs. Sheldon Thacher, Mrs. J.J. Kenneally, Miss Jane Minshall and Roland Hoyt.

The area has already proved itself a perfect setting for a flower show. It will also be used for social occasions and for lectures and horticultural demonstrations. As the "Garden Center" concept comes nearer to reality, it is possible that a continuous floral display can be maintained in the patio area, with various garden clubs taking turns displaying their specialties . . . Probably in years to come, the Floral Association and affiliates will wonder how they ever got along without their showplace patio!

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Photos by Bill Gunther.

In the Old Fashioned Garden is the familiar annual Cosmos, from Mexico, almost fool-proof in the garden.

Old-Fashioned Garden & The Herb Gardens

AT QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS, ENCINITAS, CALIFORNIA

by Gilbert A. Voss

The idea behind the Old Fashioned and herb gardens is to show traditional herbs and flowers in a way reflecting their ethnic origins. Four separate gardens grow familiar annual flowers and herbs as well as exotic and seldom-seen species.

The Old Fashioned Gardens portray the type of "grandma's garden" familiar to 19th century southern California. Its roots lie in the New England tradition deriving from the so called "Dog's Grave Rockery". In western Europe at some time in unrecorded history, cultivated plants were used to ornament the homely burial mounds of the household pet. The rockery, as a distinctly American out-growth of the horticultural style of rock gardening, found a natural home in the Victorian development of California's urban landscape. Our garden bases its integrity on a foundation planting of old rose cultivars. Tea, China, and noisette roses combine to provide year-round floral attraction. Reflecting on the "Dog's Grave Rockery" style of gardening, William Hertrich,

a Prussian cavalry officer during World War I, and later the designer and first Curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, disliked the contrived garden mounds that became popular in the 1930's and 40's in the Los Angeles area. When Hertrich drove past newly landscaped yards featuring giant berms he would harrumph to himself about "more dead horses!" Besides roses, daylilies and perennial herbs such as skirret, samphire, sea kale, rare oreganos, and many traditional annual, biennial, and perennial flowers abound. The familiar Cosmos is a standby. In the spring, the rose-of-heaven, or *Lychnis coeli-rosa*, a favorite European flower, makes a spectacular show. Quail's Old Fashioned Garden has something interesting for the visitor to see the year-round, but as you might expect, spring and summer are the best times to see the most plants in bloom.

The herb gardens at Quail represent three separate areas reflecting the ethnic origins of the plants on display.



Photo by Bill Gunther.

In the Asian Herb Garden is *Houttuynia cordata*, or "Rau diep ca", the leaves of which are used in the Orient in salads and soups.

The Asian Herb Garden contains characteristic herbal elements of the cuisine of southern India, China, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Most numerous of the plants in this garden are of the Ginger family. In addition, there are cardamom, galingale, tumeric and zedoary; these are all spices having specific applications in various dishes. Other seasonings possess a wide number of regional names, including Job's tears (*Coix lacryma-jobi*), rau-ram (*Polygonum odoratum*), rau diep ca (*Houttuynia cordata*), and taro (*Colocasia esculenta*).

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The Latin American Herb Garden contains little-known fruits, also culinary herbs and medicinal plants common to temperate and subtropical Mexico, and various countries of Central and South America. Most familiar to visitors are the various kinds of chili peppers (*Capsicum* spp. and cultivars) on display. Arrowroot (*Maranta arundinacea*), yautia (*Xanthosoma atrovirens*), yuca (*Manihot esculenta*), llacon (*Polymnia edulis*), and several other plants are root crops on display. Mountain papaya (*Carica pubescens*), and lulo (*Solanum quitoense*), are two fruits from the northern Andes Mountains. Pericon (*Tagetes lucida*) is a culinary herb and incense. Virginia tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica*) is a medicinal herb and sacred element of native societies.

The European Herb Garden is an assemblage of culinary and fragrant herbs planted in a medieval knot pattern. Catnip and borage, balm and rue, marjoram and thyme, lavenders, sages and oreganos combine with herbal flowers like thrift and calendula to create a nostalgic symmetry of legendary herbal tradition.

Quail Botanical Gardens, in Encinitas, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is free; parking is \$1 per car. From the parking lot, to reach to herb gardens, proceed upwards toward the highest part of the gardens (follow the paved road that heads north then go through the walled garden). The best time to visit is on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., while the adjacent Docent Plant Sales area is open. There you can purchase a selection of many of the herbs you have seen — to take home and enjoy in your own herb garden and as your own source of seasonings.

Gilbert Voss, an employee of the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department, is the Horticulturist at Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, California.



Photo by Bill Gunther

In the Latin American Garden is *Tagetes lucida*, or "pericon", used in Mexico as incense, or to make a pleasant tasting tea drink.



A Garden of Enterprise

by Wes Beal

Waterfalls cascading over boulders, paths curving through beds of flowers, swans gliding along the surface of ponds, bridges arching over streams — all are scenes difficult to associate with a private residence in the San Joaquin Valley. The area of central California from Bakersfield to Sacramento is known by travellers as a hot, flat place quickly passed through on the way somewhere else. But these and other pastoral scenes exist on a three and a half acre estate surrounded by agrarian land two miles east of Fresno.

The garden, spreading on all sides from the home of Richard and Jackie Duncan, is open to the public during certain hours, allowing visitors to leave the hot, dusty land and escape into a cool, shaded place where they can stroll, admire, and wonder.

In addition to the garden, the Duncans' property contains a fish pond and waterfall installation business and a retail nursery. Encouraged by the popularity of their garden and the success of their business ventures, the Duncans have begun construction of an extensive nursery complex on

a nearby eight-acre parcel, continuing their 12-year process of transforming a part of the San Joaquin Valley into an oasis of beauty and enterprise.

These projects began innocently in the early seventies when Duncan hired Kodo Matsubura, a Japanese master gardener, to design a pond and accompanying landscaping at his residence.

To the Japanese, a garden is more than a place to grow flowers. It is a realm where the soul and the senses meet in contemplation of the beautiful. In a Japanese garden, life is spiritually enhanced through contact with symbols of nature. Duncan was aware of this Japanese concept, but was surprised by the extent of Matsubura's plan. The pond of his dreams became a lake; the surrounding garden, a living sculpture.

The major work of digging the lake, building waterfalls, forming hills, and marking paths took more than a year. Ground was broken April 1, 1973, with most of the work contracted. Water spilled into the lake in May 1974, in time for the Duncans to be married on the garden's island in August.

Interested in a natural appearance, the Duncans shunned concrete, hiring a fourth-generation Japanese rock specialist to incorporate rock work into the design. He used large granite boulders in streams, along the edge of the lake, and as accents throughout the garden.

Over the years, the garden has undergone constant change as the Duncans experiment with new plants, and try new visual effects.

"Every area is different," Mrs. Duncan said. "A lot of planning went into corners and around pathways."

Although gardens symbolize the permanence of nature, the Duncans, aware that nature is not timeless, planned for the changing seasons. While one plant idles in dormancy, others nearby spread and bloom.

"We planned the garden," Mrs. Duncan said, "to have something blooming or a color change — something happening — everywhere during the year."

Special attention was given to the use of fragrant plants. Bulbs of various kinds have been tucked in throughout the garden, emitting a fabulous and mysterious fragrance.

Walking through the garden, you notice a fragrance along an upper path, then again as the wind carries it along a lower path. You don't really know where the fragrance is coming from.

Although the garden was designed for the pleasure of the Duncans and their guests, from its inception it has been open to the public. During the first four years, no fence crossed the front of the property, and people, curious about the activity, drove by and stopped. If the Duncans were working in the garden, they chatted with passerby and perhaps showed them around. They now encourage visitors by setting hours of public

access. The garden is open 12-5 p.m. every day except Monday.

Many plants in the garden reveal the Duncans' fondness for Japan. Four years ago they planted 240 Japanese cryptomeria trees around the lake, and staggered 42 Japanese cherry trees along pathways. The cherry trees are the same type as those in Washington, D.C., and some bloomed for the first time last year.

The trees are arranged to arch over pathways for shade and to evoke the feeling of Japan at cherry-blossom time, when petals fall like light snow.

The garden also contains the largest collection of named Japanese iris in the United States — more than 1,000 varieties.

Another Japanese import, the brightly-colored Koi fish of the garden lake and streams, led to the first business begun as an offshoot of the garden. Visitors' interest in the fish led Duncan to check around Fresno, exploring demand for Koi in ornamental pools. As a result he started a business in 1977 selling Koi out of cement ponds on the opposite side of the house from the garden. Fish, of course, need ponds, and the business expanded to include pond installation, then the design and construction of waterfalls.

In the meantime, visitors were asking Mrs. Duncan about plants, seeking hints to her success. The Duncans are native Fresnoans, and their lifelong attention to plants has taught them what makes plants thrive in the San Joaquin Valley. Mrs. Duncan, advising people how and when to plant, developed a clientele, and two years ago they took a plot of land they had set aside for a tennis court and turned it into a retail nursery.

Mrs. Duncan uses the garden to test the tolerance of plants to Fresno's climate, with temperatures up to 115° F in summer.

She said visitors are often amazed at her success, which she credits in large part to proper soil preparation. When they built the garden, no soil was brought in from outside. The dirt dug for the lake was used to form the surrounding hills. To this poor soil, truckloads of humus were added.

The Duncans' garden, begun as a humble dream, has expanded into a prosperous business. Supervising this business leaves the Duncans little time to enjoy the original dream. Mrs. Duncan said that before she opened the nursery, she spent 60 to 70 hours a week in the garden. Now, she said, "The primary joy of the garden is the extreme pleasure it brings to our visitors."

Despite the pace imposed on the Duncans by their enterprises, the quiet purpose of Japanese garden design remains a strong influence. "I cannot go into the garden without thinking of the miracle of God and nature," Mrs. Duncan said. "Sometimes I still get goose bumps." For Mrs. Duncan, gardening is not just a hobby, it is her whole life.

Wes Beal, from Fresno, California, has also written other articles on the pleasure of gardening.



Bulbine Caulescens:

IT NEEDS A NAME

by Betty N. Shor

No two gardeners would agree on the perfect plant, but I will nominate *Bulbine caulescens*. I am surprised that it is not more widely grown. Maybe a catchy common name would help. I don't know one for it, but the pronunciation, "bull beany", is easy.

This member of the lily family from the Cape Province of South Africa stays in bloom almost all year in my coastal garden. The flower stalks, tipped with a generous spearhead of half-inch wide flowers, rise well above the one-foot-high mound of onionlike leaves and wave gracefully in any breeze. The more common variety with lemon-yellow flowers is showier than the one with orange petals and yellow stamens.

The plant spreads outward by a succession of aerial roots, forming a continuously larger circle. After several years it tends to sprawl away from the center and needs to be tidied, or replaced from a cutting.

B. caulescens is drought-tolerant and not particular about soil. It even grows well in heavy clay. A good candidate for rock gardens, this plant mixes attractively with succulents and California natives. It grows equally well in full sun or partial shade along the coast. I don't know how frost-tender it may be. One of my garden books also recommends it as a container plant, even indoors (I presume in bright light).

Anna's hummingbirds are attracted to the



Bulbine Caulescens by Nat Shor

flowers, but snails are not. I have occasionally found snails on my plants but never any damage from them.

A few *B. caulescens* seedlings have sprouted in my garden, but the easiest way to propagate this plant is by cuttings. Snip off a piece of the stem with a cluster of leaves, stick it in soil, and — Voila! a new plant. It roots securely within a month, apparently at any time of year. Although the leaves are fleshy, the stem is dry, so I do not harden the cuttings as is usually done with succulents.

The only disadvantage that I have found with *B. caulescens* is that the flowers close at night — a characteristic that I had not observed before I put some into a flower arrangement for an evening party. Of course, they reopened in the vase the following day. Plants in the garden do the same.

In "A Handbook of Succulent Plants," Hermann Jacobsen describes several other interesting species of bulbine. Of these, I have seen only *B. alooides*. Yes, it resembles an aloe, but the flower is nearly identical with *B. caulescens*. It grows more slowly, does not offshoot readily, and blooms only in the spring.

Betty Shor, transplanted to San Diego 30 years ago, is an enthusiast of succulents and some of the other drought-tolerant plants. She is a licensed plant grower with a small wholesale business.

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St. John's Bread

By Rosalie Garcia

As a common street tree, the carob, *Ceratonia siliqua*, does not excite much attention. We seldom hear much about its value as food or forage, uses that have existed from antiquity.

The carob is evergreen, making good shade with its dense foliage of pinnately divided, glossy green leaves which are divided into four to ten rounded leaflets averaging 2 inches in length. In spring, it has clusters of red flowers and the bark too is reddish. If female, the tree produces an abundant crop of thick green pods which turn brown and drop in autumn, making sidewalk litter that disturbs the neat-minded. The flat dark brown leathery pods grow abundantly and can reach 12 inches in length.

This native of the Middle East has long flourished along the shores of the Mediterranean, where the climate is similar to that of southern California and Arizona. Although hardy to 18° F young trees should have some protection during winter months.

Water infrequently, but deeply until well established, then winter rains should be sufficient. The carob is subject to root crown rot if watered too often.

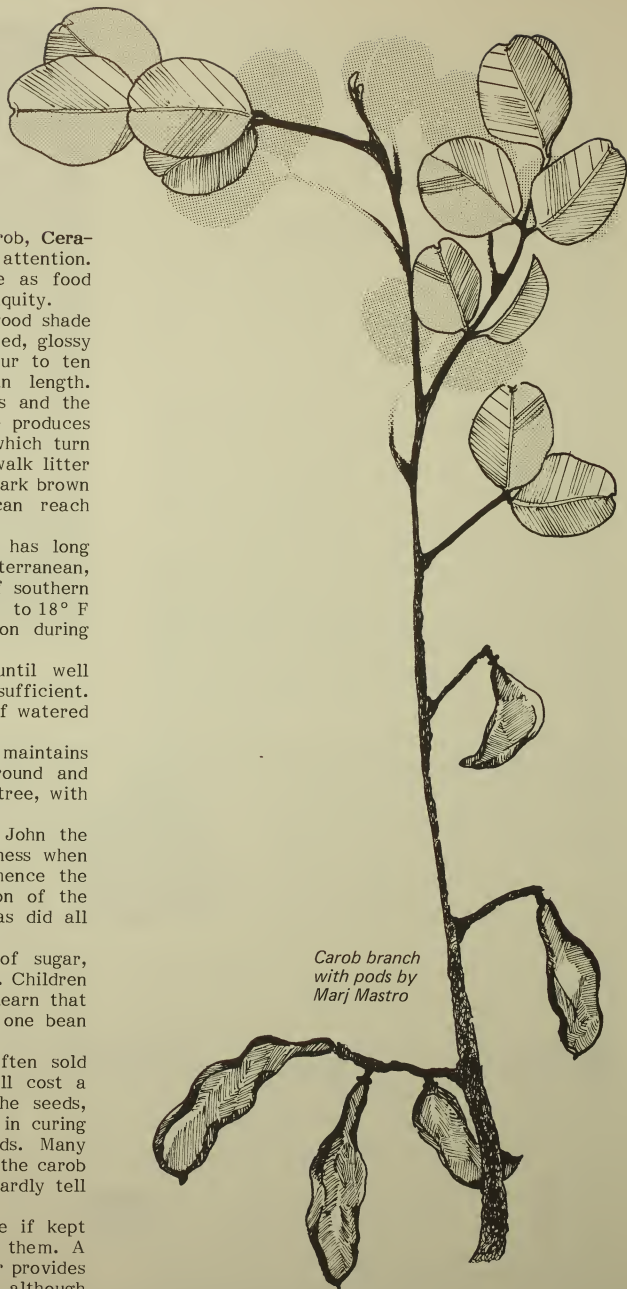
Allowed to grow naturally, it maintains a bushy form with branches to the ground and can be used as a hedge, or trained as a tree, with lower branches removed.

We read in the Bible about St. John the Baptist and his wandering in the wilderness when he lived on locusts and carob beans, hence the name St. John's Bread. There is mention of the children of Israel using them as food, as did all the peoples of that area.

They were light to carry, full of sugar, had some protein, and lasted a long time. Children in southern California are beginning to learn that they have a sweet chocolate taste and one bean pod is satisfying.

In our eastern cities they are often sold as imported delicacies and one pod will cost a dime or more. One usually spits out the seeds, but an extract made from them is used in curing tobacco, in paper making, and in foods. Many who are allergic to chocolate are finding the carob powder is a good substitute. They can hardly tell the difference in candy, cake and drinks.

Carob pods will keep a long time if kept in containers so weevils do not get to them. A sack of carob bean pods tucked in the car provides a satisfying snack while traveling and although sweet, not so caloric as a candy bar or real chocolate which contains much more fat.



*Carob branch
with pods by
Marj Mastro*

Ojai's

Biblical Garden

By Nancy Dale

When Mary Lapham Hunt was president of the Ojai Valley Garden Club, Ojai, California, in 1954 she created for that year's flower show a display of the blooms and foliage of herbs, shrubs and trees mentioned in the Bible. She had done meticulous research and each plant specimen was accompanied by its botanical name and an appropriate Biblical quotation.

The comments and interest that resulted from this show led the Reverend and Mrs. William Gearhart to ask her if she would consent to plant a "Biblical Garden" on the grounds of the Presbyterian Church at 304 North Foothill Road, Ojai, California. Mary was not a Presbyterian, but, as a labor of love, she finally agreed to do it. When she started almost thirty years ago the only similar garden known to her was a small one in Carmel. What encouraged her on her project was the realization that not only the topography but the climate in California, with its wet winters and dry summers, was so like that of the Holy Land.

The garden occupies about 18,000 square feet and as it exists today contains over sixty different scriptural species, each with a sign that gives the botanical name and an appropriate Biblical quotation.

One unique feature is the Hemicyclium, a copy of the ancient sundial invented by the astronomer, Barossus of Babylonia, in 340 B.C. There is a similar one reported to be in Central Park, New York. When Abraham went through Babylon he presumably brought back sundials, most likely to have been like this one. (Isaiah 38:8) Sundials resembling the Hemicyclium continued to be used in Greece and Rome until around the 4th century A.D. The Babylonian cuneiform characters are quite unlike Roman numerals but the total accuracy of this time piece is a source of wonder. It was created by Ben Noren, a local stonemason and artist, who is also responsible for the ancient Hebrew benches in another part of the garden. The Hemicyclium now sits in a lovely small pond surrounded by water lilies and papyrus as might its original a thousand or so years ago.



Myrtus communis

Mary Hunt spent many years researching Biblical plants and tried to use in the garden only those that expert Biblical botanists had agreed on. Her final authority was the research and conclusions of the internationally renowned Biblical botanist, Dr. Harold N. Moldenke of the New York Botanical Garden.

Not only were the authors and translators of the Bible not plant scholars, but scientific nomenclature did not exist until the advent of Linnaeus about the middle of the 18th century. Linnaeus was convinced that particular plants were limited to particular parts of the world, an idea so acceptable today that it seems odd that it had to be proven. Yet this was the concept that began the exploration and study of the natural history of the Holy Land by a famous student of Linnaeus, Hasselquist. Dr. Moldenke and others have continued this in recent times.

Mary Hunt spent much time locating, acquiring and cultivating the obscure plants on display. About two thirds of the species represented are no longer in the retail trade. Many of these were located by Raymond Sodomka, Jr., a Santa Barbara horticulturist and nursery owner. One of his lucky finds is *Myrtus communis* (Isaiah 55:13), many plants of which form the myrtle Courtyard. Although there is another species of myrtle more common, this Biblical one is almost impossible to find commercially.

Myrtle is mentioned over one hundred times in scripture and always in connection with happiness and joy. For many years it has been a custom in Europe for brides to tuck a sprig of myrtle in their veil caps to bring good luck. At the recent wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales the bit of myrtle placed in her bouquet came from the same bush that had provided the one in Queen Victoria's bridal flowers.

While it is illuminating for those who have never delved into this field to learn that the rose that was to blossom in the desert (Isaiah 35:1) was probably an oleander and that the husks the prodigal son would gladly have shared with the swine were pods of the carob, **Ceratonia siliqua** (Luke 15:16) Mary Hunt has gone much further in her collection and tells entertaining stories of her acquisitions.

Most of the date palms in Southern California are hybrids from the Canary Islands. **Phoenix dactylifera** (John 12:13), the date palm of the Holy Land, proved almost impossible to locate. Mary Hunt mentioned this search and her regret on all of her talks and tours. One day her wish was granted directly from "Heaven". A letter came from a man named D.L. Heaven telling her that there was one, and only one, at the Palm Desert Museum in Palm Springs, California which they were willing to let her have. This palm, which eventually becomes a tall, slender tree, is now ten years old and is thriving in its present home.

The broom bush, **Genista monosperma** was planted twenty seven years ago and is very difficult

to find now. It is the only one known to exist in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, California. During its blooming season in February, this broom is beautiful, covered with fragrant, pealike white flowers. When not in bloom, the small, sparse leaves and many gray branches are not attractive, so the one other **G. monosperma** reported to have grown in this area was destroyed some time ago by mistake.

Plants armed with prickles and thorns are characteristic of dry lands all over the world and Palestine had many. One of the briars, **Ruscus aculeatus** (Ezekiel 28:24), was noted as both prevalent and typical in ancient times, but twenty eight years of searching throughout this country and Europe had not produced a specimen. Making wants for the garden known had often paid off in the past, and so it was in this case. Only a few years ago, a Mr. Grimm in Santa Barbara surprised Mary by donating the one he had acquired from Italy. Visitors are astonished to see how much the dry flowers, growing in the midribs of the leaf-like branchlets, resemble mosquitoes before they mature into red berries.

Artemisia is a common genus, appearing as wormwood and gall, symbolic of calamity and sorrow, many times in the Bible. The rare species, **Artemisia** (Proverbs 5:4) was acquired during a trip to Arcadia, California.

The sycamore fig, **Ficus sycomorus** (Luke 19:4) is not the tree we call sycamore, but a fig tree. The leaf is not lobed like that of other figs and the bizarre fruit grows right out of the trunk

MOVING?



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in large, grapelike clusters. Mary Hunt long desired one of these trees. One day she received a call from Hewston-Green Plant Collectors in Woodinville, Washington, strangers to her, saying they had one. They agreed to send it to her by air. Knowing the tree to be frost sensitive, she took the tubbed specimen home for wintering in a slightly warmer environment. To her dismay it died of frost bite. She wrote of this sad loss in a newsletter, and was rewarded with a call from a friend who read it. He said he was going to visit his daughter in that very Washington state town. When he returned, he brought with him the only other one the Hewston-Green Plant people had. This was a little older, so, planted for protection under oaks, has survived. It is a much traveled plant for the Washington people got it from a man in New Zealand who had grown it there from seed he had brought from Palestine.

Although some disagree, Dr. Moldenke thinks that the nettles referred to in Job 30:7 are *Acanthus spinosus*. The flower stalk of this species is very similar to *A. mollis*, the common one, but the leaf is more deeply cleft. The garden owes the acquisition of *A. spinosus* to Elizabeth de Forest, an eminent horticulturist of Santa Barbara. Elizabeth de Forest and Mary Hunt were long-time friends and one day when Mary was in Santa Barbara, they met by chance on the street. When Elizabeth learned that Mary was still anxious to obtain this particular plant, she said she was



Ficus sycamorus

sure she had just one in her home garden brought back from the Mediterranean by her husband, the prominent landscape architect, Lockwood de Forest. The pieces of root which were then dug excitedly by Mary from her friend's garden are now growing well in the Ojai garden.

Saffron, *Crocus sativus* (Song of Solomon 4:14) is not difficult to acquire but it is worth noting, first, because of its lavender beauty, and second, because it is the world's most expensive spice. Last year the Smithsonian magazine reported the cost of a pound at \$2000. It takes about 75,000 flowers to produce a pound from the three stigmas on each bloom which must be clipped as soon as the flower opens, and then dried to make the seasoning. In Biblical times, saffron was also used for a textile dye.

Although well-maintained, clearly labeled and rewarding to visit now, the garden is not a static one. Extensive plans have already been made for future improvement.

Ojai's Biblical Garden is self-supporting, ecumenical, and open to the public without charge for self-guided map tours from noon on week days and all day on week ends. Lecture tours at a minimal charge are also available. Information can be had by calling (805) 646-3086 or 646-1437.

Illustrations are from Mary Hunt's slide/lecture program entitled "Ojai's Biblical Garden in Bloom".

Nancy Dale has had several articles published. Her new book, "Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains" is being published in November 1985 by Capra Press, Santa Barbara.

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RENEW EARLY



A NEWLY-DISCOVERED

Palm Canyon



A row of *Washingtonia filifera* palms runs laterally up the north side of Four Frogs Canyon, apparently following a water seep line in the substrata.

Photo by Duffy Clemons

by Erik Jonsson

It is, of course, an exaggeration to say that the remote palm grove which we have discovered has never before been seen by man. But quite certainly, the hundred palms which thrive there are not indicated on any existing map, nor are they recorded in the old records of the Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California.

These palms are just outside the southeastern border of Anza-Borrego State Park, in San Diego County. No road nor trail reaches them. They are Federal Government property, under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management, an agency which has not advertised their existence.

It was in the fall of 1984 when Duffy Clemons and I were hiking on Coyote Mountain in southeastern Anza-Borrego. It was a very clear day. The Sombrero Peak palms and the Bow Willow palms were easy to see. But further south were more palms which were not indicated on our topographical map. They appeared to be located in Four Frogs Canyon, a name also not included on the topographical map.

Four Frogs Canyon is remote and isolated. It took a few exploratory hikes before I finally reached the edge of the In-Ko-Pah Mountain Plateau and could look down on the palms in the canyon. I was alone and it was getting late so I wisely decided not to go down the steep slope of loose decomposed granite, but I counted 50 palms and guessed that there were more hidden behind a bend in the canyon, before I turned back across that beautiful plateau with large granitic rocks accentuating the rolling hills covered with soft annual summer grasses.

Then, on November 3, my daughter and I backpacked up the Carrizo Canyon to the mouth of Four Frogs Canyon and turned upward into it. We camped for the night under the lone sentinel palm only half a mile up the canyon, and on the next day after a couple of miles of rockhopping,

especially towards the end, we finally reached the main grove.

This grove is almost a half mile long, and goes from 1700 to 2500 feet in elevation. It totals about 100 living mature palms, all of the species *Washingtonia filifera*. Most of them are in the canyon bottom, which is to be expected, since that is the course of the stream. However, the most remarkable feature of the grove is a horizontal line of palms on the north side of the canyon. There is a seepage along a fault line in the bedrock here that gives enough water for the palms.

This grove is nowhere as dense as a grove around a spring: the ground is too rocky for that, and perhaps the water supply is insufficient. There are a number of dead or dying palms, especially in the upper part of the grove, but there is also an abundance of immature palms in the middle and lower parts so the continued existence of the grove is assured. The palms grow amidst huge boulders, between which many stiff and spiny shrubs find shelter, making the area so inhospitable that there truly is no easy way to reach these palms. The boulders serve as breaks both for wildfires and fire bugs, so most of the palms are full-skirted right down to the ground.

However inaccessible this grove is now, it might not always be so. In the interest of our children and their children, we should now initiate action toward transferring the land of these palms from the Bureau of Land Management (who has seen one palm has seen them all) to the custody and protection of the adjacent Anza-Borrego State Park.

Eric Jonsson is a Board member of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. This is his first article for CALIFORNIA GARDEN; we hope to hear from him again!

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How To Grow Three Dollar Artichokes

by Roy Jones

I am not really an expert vegetable grower. I always have a few tomato plants because I like fresh-picked, vine-ripened tomatoes. My vegetable garden consists of one raised bed 8 feet by 4 feet. At one end I always plant two tomato plants; at the other end I grow artichokes, \$3 apiece artichokes. While I wait for the tomatoes to mature, I grow 50 cent apiece radishes, because they do very well and give me a great sense of satisfaction when I harvest my crop.

Artichokes were a real challenge. I got my first plant about ten years ago in Castroville, the "artichoke capitol of the world." Castroville is in central California a few miles south of Gilroy, the "garlic capitol of the world." All of my plants are off-spring of this first plant. I could have hundreds of plants, but my space is limited, so I discard most of them. Every year I have enjoyed my 'fill' of fresh-picked artichokes except for one year when I let most of the choice ones go to flower so my wife could try to win a blue ribbon at a flower show with an artichoke arrangement. The flowers are blue and look like a protea relative; so do the plants.

In early spring, about February, I weed the bed and fertilize with steer manure two cubic foot for the two plants. I dig it in and cultivate the soil. During the growing season I add several handfuls of an all purpose 6-10-4 chemical fertilizer every month and water it in. I water whenever the plants start drooping.

The artichokes appear about the first of April. By digging around in the plant, I can locate the tiny buds which are about an inch in diameter. These grow rapidly and a long stalk develops pushing the bud above the leaves of the plant. These stalks are 2½ to 3 feet tall. When the buds mature, about 2 to 3 inches of the stalk is edible, too. By the later part of April, we eat fresh-picked artichokes every evening. Each plant yields about four decent size artichokes with the one on the central stalk being the prize. Many cocktail size

ones grow at the base of the leaves. One eats all of these as they are very tender. Thank goodness, by May I've had my fill and they are all gone.

In the fall, about October, I cut the plants back to the ground. In early spring, about February, when they begin to come up again, I cut out all but the most vigorous plants.

Actually they are very easy to grow. The biggest problem is aphids. As aphids are caused by ants, I first attack the ants. Then I spray the plants with a squirt can of general purpose insect killer, one recommended for food plants.

I live on a coastal area of San Diego, Point Loma, and get only one crop a year, but I know people who live further from the coast who get more and larger artichokes than I do and two crops a year.

Not everyone can get to Castroville to get a plant, but they are available at local nurseries in early spring. If you want to be an artichoke grower too, look for them this spring. If enough of you get interested, who knows, we could form an artichoke growers club!

Roy Jones is a retired Naval officer who takes care of an established yard and grows what pleases him.



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Book Reviews

By Mary Lou Orphey

HERBS, Their Cultivation and Usage by John and Rosemary Hemphill. 1984 Represented and Distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. Two Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. 6 x 8 3/4 in. paperback \$7.95 (US), \$9.95 (Can) 128 pages.

The use of culinary herbs has increased dramatically since it has been determined there is a possible correlation between salt usage and high blood pressure. Anyone interested in the use of herbs in cooking or companion planting of herbs with other plants in the garden will enjoy reading this book.

Information included for each of the 31 herbs is description, history and mythology, cultivation, harvesting and processing, various uses such as culinary, medicinal and cosmetic, and companion planting. Gardeners will note the information on propagation, type of soil needed, best location in the garden, and the mature height.

Examples of recipes included are pestou, sage welsh rarebit and curried egg mousse. There are also recipes for pot-pourri, beauty face packs and household uses.

The splendid use of color photographs of herbs growing in the garden and detailed close-up leaf studies makes this book a handy guide to the cultivation and usage of herbs.

GROWING LILIES by Derek Fox. Illustrated by Leslie Wilkinson. 1985 Croom Helm Ltd. 51 Washington Street, Dover, New Hampshire 03820. 6 1/2 x 9 1/2 in. hardback \$29.00 264 pages.

The cultivation, propagation, pests, diseases, other disorders of lilies and the geological distribution of the Species are discussed in this scholarly book on lilies.

The Genus *Lilium* and its family connections, survey of the Species in alphabetical order of the Genera *Lilium* and *Cardiocrinum* are analyzed in detail.

There is a brief history of early hybrids and a review of the Asiatic Hybrids, the Martagon lilies, the West Coast American lilies, and Aurelian and Oriental hybrids. The author believes that some of the most beautiful lilies of our time are the West Coast American lilies based on the floral qualities of species like *L. parryi* and *L. kelloggii* (e.g. "Oliver Wyatt" and "Lake Tahoe").

Plants commonly known as some kind of lily which are not included in this book are agapanthus, clintonia borealis, hemerocallis and hosta, to name a few.

This comprehensive book will serve as a good reference for lily growers and enthusiasts.

PROPAGATION, How To Grow Plants Using Seeds, Cuttings and Other Methods by John I. Wright. 1985 Represented and Distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. Two Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. 4 3/4 x 7 1/4 in. paperback \$3.95 (US), \$5.50 (Can) 95 pages.

True gardeners rarely resist the urge to gather seeds, cuttings and scions for the pleasure of propagating their own plants. PROPAGATION is full of advice for achieving success. For example, some eucalyptus seeds only germinate freely after being subjected to fire and heat to some degree. One learns how to prepare these seeds for sowing.

Propagation by cuttings, seeds, division, layering, grafting and budding is clearly explained and suitable plants for each method are listed at the end of each chapter. The line drawings are helpful in showing what to do. Formulae for seed compost and potting compost are included.

This handy reference book is invaluable to the amateur gardener interested in increasing his own stock or obtaining new varieties from friends and neighbors.

MINATURE ROSES For Home and Garden by Sean McCann. 1985 Arco Publishing, Inc. 215 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003. 7 x 10 in. hardback \$19.95 144 pages.

A rose is a rose is a rose; there is no doubt about that. But in the last 5 years, the special charm of miniature roses has caused them to gain in popularity more rapidly than all other types of roses combined.

Included in this entertaining book on miniature roses are discussions on the different types where to plant them, propagating your own, hybridizing, pests and diseases, pruning, feeding, and exhibiting. A list of the author's Top Thirty Miniatures is included - miniature roses that have proven to be successful around the world. Also included is a list of those newer varieties likely to succeed. The diary for miniature rose growers is a valuable guide of what to do throughout the year.

The author has been a rose enthusiast for many years and has about 1,000 hybrid teas, floribundas and climbers in his garden in addition to 1,000 miniature roses. His book on miniature roses will provide hours of enjoyable reading.

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PLANTS THAT MERIT ATTENTION, Volume 1 - Trees by The Garden Club of America, Janet M. Poor, Editor. 1984 Timber Press. P.O. Box 1631, Beaverton, Oregon 97075. 8 3/4 x 11 1/4 in. hardback \$44.95 350 pages.

While some trees are over-used in home and park landscaping, other trees worthy of being planted and enjoyed are overlooked. The product of a nationwide search for little known trees with superior characteristics, this handsome book is an important resource for homeowners, nurserymen and landscape architects interested in a wider diversity of plants for cities and suburbs.

The 143 species of trees are shown in full color in their natural setting with close-ups to show their characteristics. A full description, culture and landscape value is detailed for each species. These trees have been selected by nurseries, botanical gardens, arboreta, universities, landscape architects and gardeners. The survey represents a monumental undertaking over a three year period by members of the Garden Club of America.

This book is of immense value for anyone interested in horticulture.

GARDEN PROJECTS. The Marshal Cavendish Editors. Arco Publishing, Inc. 215 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003. 8 1/2 x 11 in. hardback \$21.95 256 pages.

Anyone planning garden projects will benefit from reading this practical guide. From installing paths and patios to building fences and walls, from planning gardens to digging a garden pond, this book is packed with colorful photographs, diagrams and advice to answer any questions.

Afraid to use concrete? Do not know which kind to use? What tools you need? Deciding which mix to use and what materials are needed are explained in the section on building in the garden.

Also discussed are awnings and sunshades, outdoor lighting, garden drainage, outdoor play areas, repairing fences and gates, building a garden shed, and many other projects.

Between the hundreds of illustrations and photographs and the clearly written explanations, any timid or experienced handyman will find this book to be an excellent resource.

THE HERB GARDEN by Sara Garland. Photographs by Pat Hunt. 1985 Published in co-operation with The New York Botanical Garden Institute of Urban Horticulture. Viking Penguin, 40 West 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010. 8 3/4 x 8 3/4 in. paperback \$12.95 168 pages.

There is a certain fascination about the folklore of herb gardens throughout the ages. This delightful paperback provides a glimpse into medieval, Renaissance and monastery herb gardens.

The main emphasis of this charming book is the planning and construction of herb gardens. Kitchen herb gardens, the hardy herb border, low maintenance herb gardens and scented herb gardens are a few of the types of herb gardens discussed. The use of retaining walls, fences and arbors, seats and benches, paved areas and paths is explained. The guide to growing and cultivating herbs is helpful.

Those interested in capturing the charm of an old-fashioned herb garden in their own backyard will find this lavishly illustrated paperback to be one of their most effective gardening tools.

BOTTLE GARDENING by Peter McHoy. 1985 Represented and Distributed by Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. Two Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. 5 1/4 x 8 1/2 in. hardback \$12.95 (US), \$17.50 (Can) paperback \$6.95 (US), \$8.95 (Can) 96 pages.

Have you ever been given a planted bottle garden only to have the plants outgrow their container or die from despair? Try your old containers, gold fish bowl, glass dome, aquarium, bottle garden lamp or other containers described in this interesting book and use the list of plants to create a unique bottle garden.

Although the true bottle garden is a sealed environment in which plants can grow undisturbed for many months or even years, open topped containers can also be used. Find out which plants are appropriate for sealed and unsealed containers, the growing medium, and other essential information for this exciting concept of growing plants in containers.

Travelers, house plant enthusiasts and bottle garden hobbyists will thoroughly enjoy this unusual book on bottle gardening.

Mary Lou Orphey is a member of The La Jolla Village Garden Club, is a Master Gardener, and enjoys gardening.

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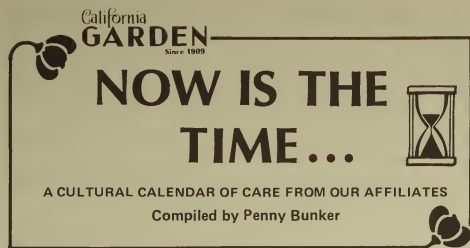
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BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

- keep** your planting material moist but NOT wet; November and December can be dry months.
- protect** your potted plants if rains arrive; a heavy down-drip can wash out soil and expose the roots.
- control** any insect problem - spray for mealy bugs and other pests.
- also spray** for mildew control - read labels and be guided by the instructions on the control material.
- feed** lightly
- clean** your plants of all dead leaves and wood. Place a top dressing of your favorite mulch around them.
- allow** tuberous begonias to go dormant.

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

- consider** grafting conifers.
- prune** black pines by cutting the candles about half length.
- not transplant** any trees at this time.
- keep** deciduous trees protected from sudden changes of temperatures.
- remove** debris from trees - brown needles on pines, leaves from deciduous trees.
- cut** down on watering, particularly for deciduous trees; protect from any heavy rains. Don't water in freezing areas.
- withhold** fertilizer.

BROMELIADS Linda Prell

- withhold** fertilizer so the plants may harden off for winter.
- stop** water during cold wet weather.
- leave** off-shoots on the parent plant - they winter over better this way.
- protect** plants from exposure to the elements; frost, hail, and strong winds can do irreparable damage.
- bait** for snails and slugs that thrive during any rainy season.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Frank Thrombley

- be very observant** of the weather; rain with cold weather or frost is usually very detrimental to the plants.
- maintain** a careful watering program for the winter growers.

Allow all other varieties to go dormant if the long weather forecast predicts cold weather.

water sparingly or intermittently if the weather is mild to warm just enough to keep the fine roots from drying completely.

clean the glasshouse or the plants' area so that mice are not encouraged to take refuge among them. Mice will eat most succulents including the Euphorbias.

write for plant catalogs and plan for the New Year.

be vigilant for snails, slugs, scale, or mealybugs.

CAMELLIAS E.C. Snooks

- continue** applying gibberellic acid for early blooms with increased size. Don't treat over 10% of buds on any plant.
- fertilize** with a 2-10-10 fertilizer or similar mixture, low in nitrogen for improved blooms.
- apply** chelated iron, preferably with zinc if not applied in the fall. This will give intensified color to blooms, especially reds.
- partially prune back** large plants which are intended to be root-stock for grafting this year. This will reduce the shock of grafting and improve the rate of success.
- start** to report or transplant as soon as the weather cools and continue through the blooming period.
- select** C. sasanqua varieties while in bloom. Remember these bloom from the Fall through early winter.
- do final** disbudding as soon as possible. Leave only 1 bud per growth tip or even fewer per branch for show quality bloom.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

- allow** plant to go dormant by withholding water and fertilizer.
- cut** old stalks that are brown and dead to about 12 inches from ground.
- leave** tubers in the ground to harden off unless rains are heavy and drainage is poor; then lift the clumps.
- allow** the clumps to dry before placing in storage.
- store** in vermiculite or other medium in a protected area.
- apply** soil sulphur to any cuts made. If dividing, be sure to leave one "eye" in each division.
- tag** each tuber for identification as you tuck away.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus) Frank Granatowski
withhold fertilizers especially those containing nitrogen, allowing the plant to become semi-dormant.
protect plants from exposure to the elements. Frost, hail, and strong winds can cause

irreparable damage. Over exposure to harsh winter sunlight can be as detrimental as hot summer sun.

transplant into larger containers plants that are not expected to bloom next spring.

maintain good grooming of plants. Prune out dead, unsightly, and non-productive branches to conserve the plant's energy

keep free of debris. Bait for snails and slugs. A few granules of Slugetta placed at the base of the container have proved to be effective control and leave little or no residue.

take advantage of the winter rains. Prolonged rains will not harm plants in a good porous soil; they tend to leach the soil of accumulated salts. Can store collected rain water in opaque container to prevent mosquito larvae and any buildup of algae.

FERNS Ray Sodomka

continue to be alert for insects - slugs and snails are active.

water if it does not rain. Check plants not reached by rain.

protect plants at night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper, old sheets, or place in garage.

fertilize with a dilute mixture once more before the December rest period.

plant spore; keep in a warm area.

check container to ensure planting mix has not completely broken down.

FUCHSIAS William Selby

clean up plants; remove dead leaves and other debris from pots, baskets, and around ground plants.

prune if living in a frost-free area. Cuttings may be taken from good tip ends.

water and feed plants regularly; even in cool weather the plants still need some food and water.

protect from heavy rains if they arrive.

watch for insects in warmer areas.

protect from frost and cold winds in areas where required.

GERANIUMS Carol Roller

water only when plants become somewhat dry. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball and excess water should drain away.

continue feeding a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using at half the recommended strength as often as needed to keep the plants growing well.

prune any plants which have not been cut back.

At least one green leaf should remain on every stem which has been cut back. Lanky plants which were pruned earlier in the fall can be cut back again to produce more compact plants.

tip pinch plants which were pruned earlier in the fall.

make cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather conditions.

continue pest and disease control using products according to manufacturer's directions.

give plants temporary shelter from freezing if temperatures fall too low.

continue to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

IRIS

San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

clean beds of dead leaves and weeds;

aphids winter-over in debris filled areas.

spray for insects and disease.

give acid fertilizer (Camellia food) to Japanese and Louisiana iris.

plant the bulbous type of iris - Dutch, English, and Spanish types.

move Pacific Coast natives in late December.

Keep watered well until they are established.

have a regular watering program for all varieties.

ORCHIDS Charlie Fouquette

feed cymbidiums a 10-30-20 fertilizer.

keep snail bait out.

allow deciduous dendrobiums go dormant from 4-6 weeks

give light feedings to cypripediums and phalaenopsis.

repot cattleyas that have outgrown their pots.

stake new cymbidium spikes.

feed cattleyas with 18-19-19 fertilizer.

clean greenhouse glass of dirt and debris; let in the light on these short days.

order catalogs from Orchid suppliers and order for your friends and family some plants for Christmas.

ROSES Brian Donn

allow the bushes to rest if you have been pushing them all year.

withhold water will help them become somewhat dormant.

dormant spray in December even before pruning.

repeat spraying several times from late

December and late January. May even start some pruning in late December.

visit garden centers to purchase bare-root plants. The season may begin in late December.

VEGETABLES

set out in the garden started plants of lettuce, celery, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprout, and Swiss chard.

prepare soil so that after the holidays, roots of asparagus, artichoke, rhubarb, and plants of cane berries, strawberries, grapes, and deciduous fruit trees can be planted.

Prepare the soil for these as early as possible

by mixing in organic matter and if the clay is or adobe, use some gypsum. Organic matter should be in small pieces so it will mix well with the soil and decay quicker.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

feed bird-of-paradise. Cut out dead growth from clumps will improve appearance.

cut mums to within a few inches of the ground after blooming.

set out winter-spring type annuals for continued garden color.

plant bulbs for spring blooms; tulips and hyacinths.

after Thanksgiving. Be sure they have been refrigerated 4-6 weeks before planting in mild climates.

apply dormant spray in December to begin the control of pests and disease for the next year.

prune and shape holiday greens by using the holly and pyracantha prunings for Christmas decorations.

prepare and enrich your soil, preparing now for the bare-root plantings of roses, trees, etc.

select and plant ornamentals to give the roots time to develop before spring growth starts.



FOOD GARDEN HIT PARADE

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The most popular item in the gardens of 34 million American households is the tomato, according to Charles Scott, President of the National Gardening Association. Tomatoes are grown by 94% of the nation's growers, and have topped the hit parade of vegetable gardens for over the last ten years.

The food garden hit parade includes:

Grown by % of gardeners		Grown by % of gardeners	
94%	Tomatoes	20%	Turnips
68%	Peppers	18%	Okra
66%	Green Beans	17%	Winter Squash
64%	Cucumbers	17%	Eggplant
62%	Onions	16%	Pumpkins
52%	Lettuce	16%	Asparagus
48%	Summer Squash	16%	Herbs
45%	Carrots	10%	Sweet Potatoes
45%	Radishes	10%	Swiss Chard
42%	Corn	9%	Dried Beans
39%	Cabbage	9%	Brussels Sprouts
39%	Peas	7%	Celery
36%	White Potatoes	5%	Dried Peas
33%	Beets	5%	Oriental Vegetables
27%	Melons	5%	Parsnips
23%	Rhubarb	4%	Leeks
23%	Broccoli	3%	Peanuts
21%	Spinach		

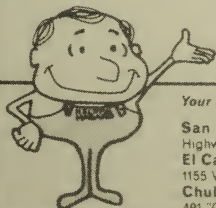
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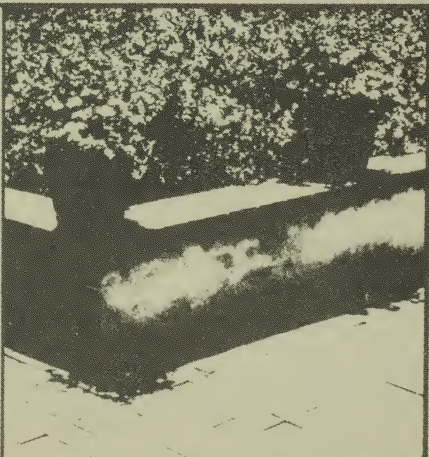
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4750 55th Street
San Diego, CA 92115

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Jack Percival 222-7327
5205 Kearney Villa Way, Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92123
1st Thurs., Byzantine Catholic Church
2235 Galahad Rd., Serra Mesa, 8:00 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY**
Pres: Dr. Leroy Phelps 280-9690
4094 36th Street
San Diego, CA 92104
2nd Sat., Casa del Prado, 1:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Palmer Groenewold 291-8912
1139 Madison Ave.
San Diego, CA 92116
3rd Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH
NATIONAL FUCHSIA SOCIETY**
Pres: Janet Wright 722-3373
610 N. Nevada Street
Oceanside, CA 92054
2nd Thurs., Heritage Hall, McGee Pk.
258 Beech, Carlsbad, 7:00 p.m.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Martin Walsh 277-5165
4077 Mt. Everest Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92111
4th Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HERB SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Barbara Baker 756-2783
P.O. Box 1387
Rancho Santa Fe., CA 92067
2nd Sat., Homes of Members, 11:00 a.m.
(No meetings in July or August.)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
Pres: Mrs. Richard Bechtel 442-7180
10212 Vista de la Cruz
La Mesa, CA 92041
1st Thurs., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO DAYTIME
AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY**
Pres: Mrs. Toni Baker 582-7516
6475 50th Street
San Diego, CA 92120
2nd Mon., Fellowship Hall, Christ United
Methodist Church, 3295 Meade, 12 noon

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Ron Miller 746-9620
822 Via Rancho Parkway
Escondido, CA 92025
2nd Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Marvin Haworth 465-2727
10453 Fairhill Drive
Spring Valley, CA 92077
3rd Thurs., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANT
SOCIETY**
Pres: Mr. Ron Berkel 465-7649
1142 Osage Drive
Spring Valley, CA 92077
2nd Mon., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. George Plaisted 583-9551
6356 Delbarton Street
San Diego, CA 92120
2nd Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

SAN DIEGO GESNERIAD SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Mike Ludwig
642 Torrance Street
San Diego, CA 92103
1st Thurs., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

**SAN DIEGO — IMPERIAL COUNTIES
IRIS SOCIETY**
Pres: Mr. Albert Feldman 747-6584
2050 Oakhill Drive
Escondido, CA 92027

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. Henry McCarty 749-8560
28034 Glenmeade Way
Escondido, CA 92026
3rd Mon., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**
Pres: Mr. Mike Ludwig 574-1138
642 Torrance Street
San Diego, CA 92103
1st Wed., Casa del Prado, Rm. 104, 7:30 p.m.

SOGETSU SCHOOL OF Ikebana
Pres: Mrs. Leroy Lahey 423-1571
2829 Flax Drive
San Diego, CA 92154

SOUTHWEST GROUP, JUDGES COUNCIL
Chr: Mrs. Edwin R. Gould 475-8996
2111 Rachael Avenue
San Diego, CA 92139
1st Wed., Casa del Prado, 10:00 a.m.

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY
Pres: Mr. C.R. Bowman 273-7937
3927 Sequoia Street
San Diego, CA 92109
1st Sat., Feb., Apr., Jun., Sep., Nov. 10 a.m.
Quail Gardens Meeting Room
Quail Gardens Rd., Encinitas

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
Pres: Mrs. B.B. Puddy 487-4148
16303 Avenida Florencia
Poway, CA 92064
4th Thurs., La Jolla United Methodist
6063 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla 1:00 p.m.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES
BENNETT'S GARDEN CENTER**
Attn: Fran Vallera 454-4241
7545 Draper Avenue
La Jolla, CA 92037

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERYMEN
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**
Pres: Hank Coide 297-4216
5115 Linda Vista Road
San Diego, CA 92110

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (USPS 084-020)
San Diego Floral Association, Inc.
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101-1619, USA

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Irina Gronborg is an artist who lives in Solana Beach where she has created an exotic garden. Her botanical drawings may be seen each month in San Diego HOME/GARDEN Magazine. She teaches drawing at Grossmont College.